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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 51% Mostly Sunny Sensex 76,532 | Nifty 23,163 | Gold 80,550 | Silver 91,549 | Dollar 86.58 | Euro 89.95 | GBP 107.35

GLASS ACTION

Green tribunal wants guidelines to ensure that glass facades on buildings are not detrimental to birds while also conserving energy

PAGE 4

HOME HORROR

Homebuyers in compensation struggle as regulator has managed to recover just Rs 91 crore out of total due Rs 758.85 crore from 278 builders

PAGE 9

Sponsored ad in search engine purportedly offering assistance in case of cybercrime itself turns out to be trap to ensnare victims of scam in bigger fraud

IT'S A TRAP!

Perfect clickbait: Fake websites appear at top of search results

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Despite continuous advancements in tackling cybercrime, fraudsters seem to always device a new way. This time, a case has emerged where they exploited digital loopholes through promoted unauthorised ads. Cybercriminals are now misusing Google Ads to push fake helpline numbers, impersonating the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) and duping victims into fraudulent transactions.

Previously, cyber scams primarily operated through phone calls and payment app frauds. Now, fraudsters have escalated their tactics, creating fake websites that appear at the top of search results when people seek cybercrime assistance. Since these links are promoted through paid advertisements, victims often mistake them for legitimate sources and unknowingly fall into the trap.

PAGE 3 HOOKED TO THE SCREEN

A recent case has exposed this deceptive strategy. A Google-sponsored ad falsely claimed to be the official NCRP helpline and directed victims to a fraudulent website which says www.customerslegaladvice.in. The scam came to light when PSI R Srinivas from the Cybercrime Section of the 1930 Helpline filed a complaint, revealing how unsuspecting individuals were misled into sharing personal details or making payments under the pretext of receiving legal advice for fund recovery.

One such victim, Naveen from Bagalkot district, lost ₹1,999 on January 26, after clicking on the fraudulent link. This is proving that such deceptive advertisements are enabling criminals to reach a wider audience before authorities can take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"If individuals are aware of the official helpline and website, they cannot be duped easily. No official ever demands money to register a complaint, so do not fall into fraudulent websites' trap — Chetan Anand, cybercrime expert

Information overload

State Information Commission blacklists RTI activists who filed thousands of appeals 'without any purpose'

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In a first, the State Information Commission has cracked the whip on activists filing thousands of applications or appeals seeking information without any purpose, as this has only ended up adding to the backlog.

The purpose of the Right to Information Act is to empower citizens to promote transparency and accountability in the working of the government. Citizens can seek and obtain information pertaining to the government under the RTI Act but they should not become a hurdle for the State Information Commission.

There are more than 50,000 applications or appeals pending with the Commission, which compelled it to organise a special drive to clear the backlog. During the special drive, the State Chief Information Commissioner found that around 30 applicants had filed thousands of appeals. "Around 30 RTI activists are ruling the roost by filing thousands of appeals thus causing a lot of inconvenience to senior citizens who also sought information. We have to allocate most of the time to clear the appeals filed by the RTI activists. We have blacklisted around 20 RTI activists, who are found misusing the State Information Commission by filing thousands of appeals," said State Chief Information Commissioner Dr HC Sathyan.

The Chief Information Commissioner said he was forced to conduct special

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Beyond travelling

Book Discussion of 'Airplane Mode: A Passive Aggressive History of Travel' by Shahnaz Habib. This witty personal and cultural history of travel asks: What does it mean to be a joyous traveller when we live in the ruins of colonialism, capitalism and climate change? The author will be in conversation with Rohini Mohan, a political journalist. **Where: Champaca Bookstore; When: January 30, 6 pm**

02 Equestrian competition

Karnataka State Equestrian Competition is a thrilling showcase of equestrian excellence. Join in to cheer participants from leading clubs, including Zippy Equestrian, Flying Sea Stallion, and Royal Equestrian Academy, as they compete in an action-packed event featuring Dressage and Show Jumping (from 60 to 120 cm) categories. **Where: Embassy International Riding School, Tarahunise Village; When: Feb 2, 7 am onwards**

03 Know your climate

The Climate Ed Summit brings together more than 100 prominent educators, policy makers, youth leaders, and changemakers from across the nation to engage in discussions about the essential role of education in tackling climate-related issues. The summit will have several panel discussions and case studies on the topic. **Where: Bengaluru International Centre (BIC), Domlur; When: January 30 & 31, 9 am to 5 pm**

04 Drum festival

The Bengaluru Drum Fest is back, bigger and bolder than ever, with Peter Szendofi, Ranjit Barot, David Joseph, Ghatam Giridhar Udupa & Anupam Ghatak! This one-of-a-kind festival celebrates the art of drumming, featuring the best talent from India and around the world. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram When: January 31, 7 pm**

05 Dance party

The chaos returns with the Jackfruit Dance Party. JDP heads Rishi Sippy, GST & That90sKid will be on deck duty, along with good friend and regular attendee, Tonkatsutkitty. **Where: Indiranagar Social; When: February 1, 8 pm onwards**

From lakes to groundwater, city swims in troubled waters

90% of borewells around Varthur Lake are contaminated: Experts warn of high coliform bacteria levels in Bengaluru lakes, raise concerns about groundwater contamination

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The condition of Kengeri Lake last Monday

Amid growing concerns around Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), high levels of coliform bacteria in Bengaluru lakes are a cause of concern, say experts. Healthcare experts opined that while the most probable transmission route of the bacteria associated with GBS is contaminated meat surfaces, there are several other sources of infection, including sewage contamination.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) recent water quality analysis report shows that fecal coliform (FC) levels are much higher than the permissible levels in most of the lakes in Bengaluru, indicating sewage contamination. Although lakes are not a source of drinking water, there is always a chance of groundwater contamination. The permissible limit for FC is 2,500 MPN (most probable number)/100 ml, while the desirable level is 500 MPN/100 ml. However, it is found to be six to ten times higher than the permissible level in some lakes in the city.

There's high chance of contamination as city lakes are interconnected

Some of the lakes with high values of faecal coliform include Ulsoor, Haralur, Uttarahalli Doraikere, Rayasandra, Chandapura, and Segehalli. The value was found to be 14,000 MPN/100 ml in Chandapura Lake. According to Professor TV Ramachandra, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), while the chance of groundwater contamination from stagnant surface water sources is minimal, Bengaluru's lakes do not fall under this category.

Possibilities of groundwater contamination

"If the groundwater recharge from surface water sources happens through layers of soil, chances of contamination are low. In such cases, soil acts as a barrier and does not allow pathogens to enter the groundwater table. However, Bengaluru lakes are interconnected, and thus there is a chance of direct contamination if flowing water encounters conduits or borewells. Overflow from lakes during monsoon may also contaminate groundwater. Our study showed that 90% of the borewells around Varthur Lake are contaminated with coliform bacteria, indicating groundwater contamination," said Professor Ramachandra.

Experts say unless the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) stops the entry of untreated sewage into water bodies by providing a 100% underground drainage facility in the city and repairing leaks in pipes, the risk of groundwater contamination runs high. "It is BWSSB's responsibility to ensure that untreated sewage does not enter lakes. Today, none of the lakes in Bengaluru fall under Category A, B, or C. This only implies that all surface water sources are contaminated. This is despite a large amount of funds diverted towards the development of underground drainage and sewage treatment plants," said a city-based water quality expert.

Risk of developing GBS is low: Healthcare experts

City-based healthcare experts say the most common way of contracting GBS is through an infection with campylobacter, a type of bacteria often found in undercooked poultry. "Although C jejuni infections are common in the general population, the risk of developing GBS after C jejuni infection is quite low. Only one in 1,000 patients develops GBS following C jejuni infection. The route of transmission of pathogens is most probably via the fecally contaminated meat surface. There are several other sources, including pets and other animals, untreated water and milk, and sewage contamination," said Dr Keni Ravish Rajiv, Senior Consultant - Neurology and Head of Epilepsy Services, Aster Whitefield Hospital.

Doctors urge good hygiene, healthy eating habits amid GBS concerns

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While Pune saw a sudden rise in Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) cases, doctors in Bengaluru have assured that there is no need to panic; however, it is essential for one to practice good hygiene and healthy eating habits. Although GBS is a serious condition, experts reassure that timely treatment leads to recovery in most cases.

Doctors believe the sudden rise in cases may be linked to bacterial infections, particularly Campylobacter jejuni, which can be found in contaminated food and water. "As of now, there have been no reported spikes in GBS cases in Bengaluru," said Dr Shivakumar R, Head and Senior Consultant Neurology at Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur Road.

What causes GBS?

Dr Pratham Bysani, Senior Consultant & Neurosurgeon at Vasavi Hospitals, explained, "GBS is caused when an infection, such as gastroenteritis or diarrhea, activates the body's immunity, which then mistakenly attacks the protective coverings of the nerves, known as the myelin sheath." The condition often starts with weakness in the legs, which can spread to the upper body and, in severe cases, affect breathing muscles, requiring mechanical ventilation.

While the exact cause of GBS remains unknown, it is often linked to infections. Dr Shivakumar said, "GBS can be triggered by viral infections such as influenza, Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), and Zika virus, as well as bacterial infections like Campylobacter jejuni, which is commonly found in contaminated poultry, undercooked meat, and unpasteurised dairy products." He further explained that in rare cases, GBS has been linked to vaccinations, though the risk is significantly lower than that from infections. Other triggers include surgery, trauma, or bone marrow transplants, though these cases are less common.

Although GBS can affect people of all ages, it is more common in older adults. "The incidence of GBS increases by approximately 20% with every 10-year increase in age. People over 65 are at a higher risk of severe complications and longer recovery times," Dr Shivakumar noted.

Preventive measures

"GBS can be prevented to some extent by general precautions such as drinking boiled water/bottled water, washing fruits and vegetables before eating, cooking poultry and meat,

avoiding raw or undercooked food, especially salads, eggs, kebabs and seafood," Dr Shivakumar added. "Treatment options include intravenous immunoglobulin therapy, which deactivates the immune response, and plasmapheresis, which removes harmful antibodies from the blood. Both treatments help prevent further nerve damage," Dr Bysani explained.

Mobile phone dependency concerns highlighted after 13-year-old's death

Police probing whether it was accident or suicide; expert says kids often experience dependency, not 'addiction'

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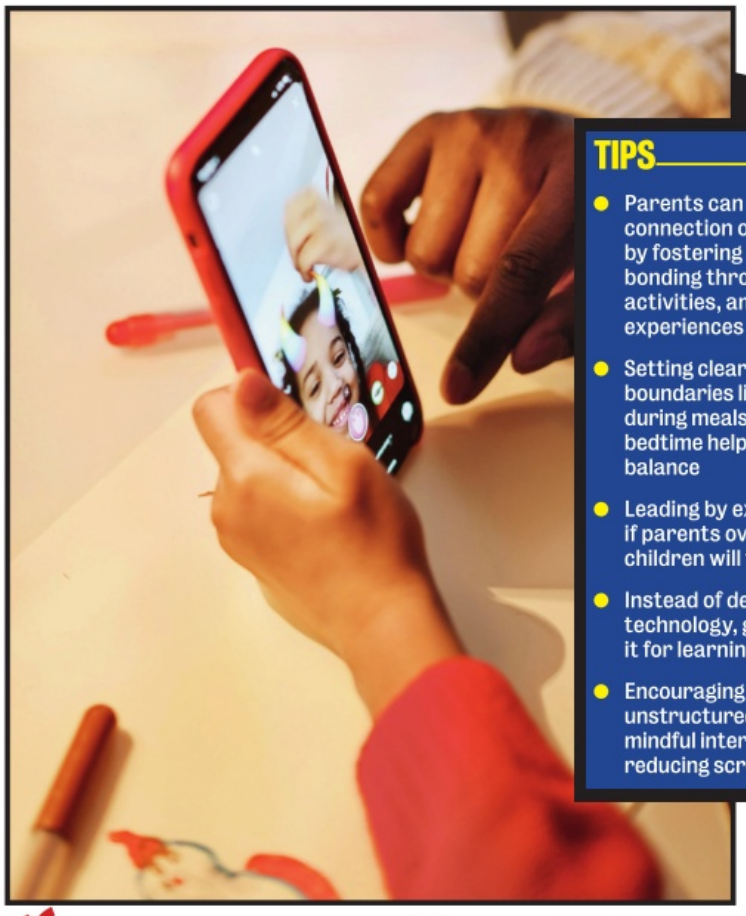
A 13-year-old boy took his own life in front of his 9-year-old sister, allegedly while using a mobile phone in Ratnanagar, Gollarahatti, under the jurisdiction of Byadarahalli police station on Monday evening. With both his parents away at work, his father employed at a bakery and his mother at a garment factory, Dhruv and his sister were alone at home after school.

According to police officials, at around 6 pm, Dhruv, engrossed in his phone, suddenly removed a nylon thread from his pants, fastened it to a ceiling fan, and attempted to hang himself. His younger sister, too young to understand the gravity of the act, was not aware of what her brother was doing, and watched till Dhruv collapsed to the floor.

Their mother, returning from work around the same time, heard her screams and rushed to the scene. With the help of neighbours, she took Dhruv to the hospital but he was declared dead.

Police officials are investigating the circumstances surrounding his death, and also whether he was addicted to any mobile game or influenced by harmful online content. Police officials told BM "his parents mentioned he used his mobile phone frequently and had advised him to reduce his usage, but they did not describe it as an addiction". The Byadarahalli police have registered a case and are probing to understand what led the young boy to take such an extreme step. They said there was no foul play.



TIPS

- Parents can focus on connection over correction by fostering screen-free bonding through storytelling, activities, and shared experiences
- Setting clear digital boundaries like no screens during meals or before bedtime helps maintain balance
- Leading by example is crucial; if parents overuse screens, children will too
- Instead of demonising technology, guide kids to use it for learning and creativity
- Encouraging imagination, unstructured play, and mindful interactions, naturally reducing screen dependence

> **"Children are drawn to screens due to the instant gratification, engagement, and sense of control they provide**
> –Dr Abhishek Pasar, parenting coach

This incident raises concerns about excessive mobile phone usage among children and the need for parental supervision and digital awareness. According to Dr Abhishek Pasari, parenting coach, and psychometry expert, "Mobile phone addiction is a concern, but blaming the episode on mobile phones is an oversimplification. In today's world, who isn't dependent on screens? Instead of pointing fingers at technology and children, we should address the root causes. In this particular case, I don't believe mobile phones are to blame. This appears more like an accident than suicide. This generation are natives of screens, unlike parents, who are immigrants to this digital world."

Dr Pasari explained that the term "addiction" is often misused. "What children experience is dependency, not addiction. They are drawn to screens because of the instant gratification, engagement, and sense of control they provide, which are elements often missing in their daily lives. The real issue lies in emotional displacement—boredom, lack of real-world engagement, loneliness, or even a gap in parent-child bonding. When kids feel unheard, unchallenged, or disconnected, screens become an escape."

Parental control

As parents juggle careers, household responsibilities, and societal pressures, they often turn to devices as an easy solution when exhausted. Inconsistent rules, digital illiteracy, and peer pressure further complicate control. "If parents themselves struggle with screen time discipline, expecting children to manage it is unrealistic," Dr Prasari explained.

He warned that dependency in children reduces their attention span. "It can cause anxiety, social withdrawal, poor posture, sleep disturbances, and decreased physical activity. Excessive screen time weakens parent-child bonding," he said.

HC calls ED's search & seizure unlawful

The High Court ruled on Wednesday that the Enforcement Directorate's search and seizure at the residence of former Commissioner of MUDA was unlawful and an abuse of legal procedures.

The court also granted the official the right to initiate legal action against those involved in the search.

The case is linked to allegations of illegal site allotment to Parvathy B M, the wife of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Justice Hemant Chandangoudar, stated that the ED must uphold fairness in its investigations, as it is a key agency responsible for tackling money laundering. He said searches conducted arbitrarily infringe upon the fundamental right to liberty and privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution. The court found the ED had no prima facie evidence to invoke Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), making the search baseless and a violation of legal procedures. **— PTI**

4 city company executives dupe J&K doc

The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police has filed a chargesheet against four officials of a private company based in Bengaluru, for duping a doctor here of Rs 30.50 lakh on the pretext of setting up a gym in a joint venture.

A police official said the case against the office-bearers of Messrs Chisel Fitness LLP was filed on February 20, 2023 following a complaint by dentist Anuj Arora, a resident of Jammu. The officials said those chargesheeted include founding director of Chisel Fitness LLP Satya Shardul Sinha, her brother and director supply chain Sushil Kumar Tongbram, director corporate and legal affairs Kingmoohan and architect Gangoni Poorna Chandra. Last month, a team of Crime Branch officers conducted raids in collaboration with Police Station Wilson Garden and Police Station Ashok Nagar. **— PTI**

Man beaten to death after his bike brushes against car

A young man was attacked in Subramanyanagar's Milk Colony after his bike accidentally brushed against a car late on Sunday evening. The victim, identified as Bharath, a 25-year-old private company employee, was returning home around 11 pm when a car with a yellow board made contact with his bike.

The situation quickly escalated when the car occupants, a group of angry men, attacked Bharath, accusing him of not applying brakes. Without provocation, they began beating him mercilessly. The assailants threw him to the ground and even dragged him on the bonnet of the car.

Police officers, who were on a routine patrol nearby, witnessed the scene and attempted to intervene. However, the youths tried to flee, attempting to get into their car and escape the scene. Bharath, who sustained grave injuries, was rushed to Victoria Hospital for immediate medical attention.

CCTV footage captured the entire incident, which has been instrumental in identifying the suspects. Subramanyanagar Police have registered a complaint and have launched an operation to apprehend the attackers, using the footage to track them down. **BMB**

Fire in parking lot for seized vehicles

A major fire broke out in the parking lot of old vehicles seized by the police at Jakkarayanakere ground under Srirampura police station limits on Wednesday. The incident took place at around 11.30 am and more than 100 vehicles were gutted in the fire.

Over 500 vehicles, including old cars and two-wheelers seized by the police, were parked at the location. Around 150 vehicles were consumed by the fire that erupted earlier in the morning. Initial reports indicate that over five cars, several autos, and more than 50 bikes have already been destroyed. As additional vehicles continued to catch fire, five fire engines had been dispatched to the scene. Police officials suspect that the fire may have been ignited by someone discarding a lit cigarette, as the area had overgrown grass. **BMB**

Reformed rowdy murdered

A rowdy sheeter was brutally murdered on the middle road of Anekal on Tuesday night while he was speaking on phone just 50 metre away from home. The victim, Venkatesh, a resident of Dommasandra and a small-time real estate businessman, was hacked to death by an unidentified gang of six who arrived in a car and on two bikes.

The incident occurred around 9.30 pm near Santhebidi, close to Venkatesh's home. The assailants, who followed Venkatesh in a car and two motorcycles, ambushed him and hit him on the head. After carrying out the brutal assault, the perpetrators swiftly escaped from the scene. Venkatesh, who had a criminal background and was involved in an attempted murder case a decade ago, had distanced himself from his past life of rowdyism. He had been living peacefully with his wife, Sangeeta, and two children, making a living through his real estate business. Police officers suspect two reasons: a tiff in business or an old rivalry. Sarjapur police have registered a case and are investigating the incident. Efforts are ongoing to track down the suspects. **BMB**

Woman crushed under BMTC bus

A 20-year-old died after she lost balance while boarding a bus to work under Banashankari traffic police station limits.

The deceased, identified as Monika, used to stay with her uncle and was leaving to her work place in Bommanahalli. As she was trying to board the bus, she lost balance due to which she fell on the road and the bus ran over her, killing her on the spot. CCTV footage from a nearby traffic signal captured the accident, which involved a BMTC bus that had just completed its night shift and was departing.

Alert police cops stationed there shifted her body to KIMS Hospital for a post-mortem examination. The traffic police are on the lookout for the bus driver, who is absconding. **BMB**

NGT pushes for glass facade guidelines to safeguard birds

Environment Ministry has been tasked with developing measures to address environmental impact of reflective surfaces in Bengaluru buildings, focusing on energy consumption and wildlife protection

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After considering the environmental impact of buildings in Bengaluru with glass facades, the National Green Tribunal has directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to develop a guideline regarding the usage of reflective surfaces. The guidelines will ensure that glass facades on buildings are not detrimental to birds while warranting energy conservation. NGT has directed that the guidelines be finalised within three months, after which they may be enforced in all projects by imposing necessary conditions in issuing Environmental Clearance (EC).

"We direct the MoEF&CC to constitute a committee with the concerned stakeholders and experts to develop guidelines for the usage of glass facades. These guidelines should ensure that such facades are not detrimental to avian fauna and that the energy consumption by buildings with glass facades does not negate the gains from other energy conservation measures implemented by the Government of India," noted NGT in its order passed on Tuesday.

The court has made this judgment in the case of a petition filed by Jagan Kumar, a Bengaluru resident. Kumar had filed the petition in 2023, seeking direction to frame rules restricting the use of glass facades and actions against buildings in the city exceeding more than 40% of exposed areas with glazed facades.

The guidelines will protect birds and conserve energy, with NGT mandating enforcement within three months

In his petition, Kumar cited a study by the Energy and Wetlands Research Group at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru which highlights that eco-friendly buildings consume 1,300 to 1,500 units (KWH) of electricity per person annually. On the contrary, buildings with glass facades consume 14,000 to 17,000 units (KWH) annually - a ten-fold increase.

A few months ago, MoEF&CC conducted a meeting along with the offices of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The agencies decided that the existing norms of the National Building Code by BIS and the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) by BEE can be adopted in regulating glass façade in buildings.

It was also observed by regulating agencies that the Energy Conservation Act of 2001 empowers the State Governments to amend the ECBC to suit the regional climatic conditions and enforce these codes through local building by-laws. In its order, the Green Court has also noted that high-rise buildings with glass facades consume significant amounts of electricity, leading to increased power generation, which in turn results in greater burning of fossil fuels and contributes to global warming. While modern air conditioners used in such buildings comply with the Montreal Protocol and generally do not use ozone-depleting substances, the refrigerants they use can still have a high global warming potential.

> **"Apart from being harmful to birds, fully glazed facades buildings with reflecting treatment also increase urban heat by deflecting solar radiation downwards and towards the adjacent areas** – NGT

"Apart from being harmful to birds, fully glazed facades buildings with reflecting treatment also increase urban heat by deflecting solar radiation downwards and towards the adjacent areas increasing localised temperature, contributing to the heat island effect," stated the tribunal.

Cat and mouse game of cybercrime

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

them down. The police have registered an FIR against an unknown person for creating a fake National Cybercrime reporting portal to cheat people in distress, under section 318 (2) and 318 (4) of the BNS and further investigations are underway.

Critical loophole

As fraudsters continue to exploit digital loopholes, the fight against cybercrime remains a constant game of cat and mouse.

This case highlights a critical loophole, despite stringent monitoring, cybercriminals are abusing legitimate advertising services like Google Ads to promote scams, making it difficult for law enforcement to react in real-time. While authorities continue to crack down on cybercrime, the ease with which fraudsters manipulate digital platforms raises serious concerns about online safety and the urgent need for tighter ad verification mechanisms to prevent such scams.

The fact that scammers can easily create and advertise fake NCRP links raises questions about Google's ad verification process.

Expert advice

National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer Chetan Anand emphasised on the importance of awareness regarding the official Cybercrime Helpline (1930) and the NCRP portal: https://cybercrime.gov.in. "If individuals are aware of the official helpline and website, they cannot be duped easily. No official ever demands money to register a complaint, so do not fall for fraudulent websites that ask for payment for complaint registration," he said.

State govt issues ordinance to assert control over Bengaluru palace land

The Karnataka government has issued an ordinance to assert its rights over the expansive Bangalore Palace grounds, which spans 472 acres and 16 guntas near Mehkri Circle here. The move follows the state cabinet's decision on January 24 to reject the issuance of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) to the Mysuru royal family for acquiring nearly 16 acres of land within the palace grounds.

According to the state government, granting Tranferable Development Rights for the Bangalore Palace grounds would not be in the best interests of the state. The ordinance aims to regulate and determine the utilisation of the land under the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996, which vests ownership of the land with Karnataka. The total value of the entire 472-acre property has been assessed at Rs 11 crore as per the provisions of the Act. "The constitutional validity of the Bangalore Palace Act has been upheld by the Karnataka High Court and there is no stay on the operation of the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996 (Karnataka Act 18 of 1996) by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the appeal," the state government said.

It noted that the Supreme Court directive, on December 10, 2024, in a contempt case to grant transferable development rights in accordance with the prevailing guidance value of the adjoining areas will gravely impact the finances of the state. – PTI

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Footpath blocked

Richmond Road

The footpath near Richmond Road Mosque is entirely blocked by parked two-wheelers and cars, leaving no space for pedestrians.

Electric hazard

Hennur

An electric installation is obstructing pedestrian movement outside Chandrashekar Institute of Speech & Hearing, Hennur. Urgent action is needed to ensure safety.

Entry obstructed

KR Puram

A banner at the KR Puram bus stop near Rama Hospital is blocking public entry. Immediate removal is needed.

No cap on safety: HC calls for stricter regulations

Court highlights wheelie, triple-riding menace in city, seeks detailed info on existing helmet regulations, road safety measures by Mar 1

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The High Court on Wednesday sought information from the state government regarding the implementation of existing helmet regulations and measures to ensure road safety for two-wheeler riders.

During the proceedings, a division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun verbally stated, "What about implementing the existing rules regarding helmets? In Bengaluru we find in certain areas, youngsters, teenagers and those in early 20's, three persons riding on a scooter or a motorbike, doing wheelies and police do not take any action against them. What is the government doing about that?"

The bench further noted that these incidents create significant disturbance and have resulted in documented accidents and fatalities, emphasising the importance of enforcing current legislation. These observations came during the hearing of a public interest litigation by Dr Archana Bhat K, requesting directions for the State to ensure availability of child safety helmets and harnesses for children aged nine months and above.

Whilst granting the state government time until March 11 to respond to the PIL, the court indicated that future hearings might address broader safety regulations for two-wheeler riders, including pillion passengers and passenger limits.

Youngsters are seen violating multiple rules in this file pic

The petitioner's representative highlighted the availability of children's helmets in Sri Lanka, suggesting similar provisions should be made locally. Government officials reported recent discussions with helmet manufacturers and demonstrated a helmet designed for children above four years, noting potential concerns about its suitability. The court expressed uncertainty about the appropriateness of helmets for children under four years and stated it would make determinations after reviewing the government's response.

HC invalidates 'pay readjustment' circular

The High Court has invalidated a circular from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) that aimed to readjust officers' pay scales previously increased in 2017. Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav, presiding as a single judge, granted the petition by 'Hindustan Aeronautics Officers Guild', nullifying the circular dated July 24, 2021, whilst maintaining the current pay structure.

The court stipulated that if authorities wish to revisit the pay scale revision rather than maintaining status quo, they must provide a hearing opportunity to the petitioner and other employees. Subsequently, they would need to submit a report to the government incorporating employees' perspectives on audit objections.

The petitioners contended that re-fixation would result in substantial recovery, causing undue hardship. Additionally, the pay scale reduction, having civil implications, was implemented without providing employees a hearing opportunity. The respondents maintained that government advice regarding audit objections necessitated pay correction, leaving them no discretion in the matter.

The bench observed that the revised pay operated between July 1, 2017, and July 24, 2021. The enhanced pay scale, effective November 17, 2017, was being reduced through re-fixation ordered on July 24, 2021. "It is an expectation that once the employer which is a Government Company and Government of India Undertaking has revised the pay and made payments in accordance with such revision for over four years, that the revision was to stay. The employees of such establishments have an expectation that the revision was affected after adherence to Official Protocol."

The court acknowledged salaried employees' economic planning patterns, noting that investments, savings and expenditure decisions often involve long-term commitments based on income certainty. Citing the doctrine of legitimate expectation, which involves citizens' expectations of public authorities following proper procedures, the court determined that reversing a four-year-old pay revision would significantly impact employees' financial arrangements. The court concluded that altering pay increases without providing hearing opportunities was impermissible, consequently invalidating the circular.

220 breakdowns in 8 months: All's not well with BMTC buses

Frequent maintenance issues with Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses have led to an alarming number of breakdowns on the road, creating challenges for passengers. Between April and November 2024, a total of 220 buses reportedly broke down mid-journey, with electric buses accounting for a significant portion of these failures.

According to BMTC data, out of the 220 breakdowns, 156 involved electric buses, while the remaining 64 were diesel-operated buses. The highest number of breakdowns was reported in September (48 incidents), October (70 incidents), and November (55 such incidents). These disruptions left commuters stranded and caused delays in services.

The data reveals that breakdowns were relatively moderate in the earlier months,

File photo of BMTC bus with a flat tire

with April witnessing 11 incidents (eight diesel and three electric buses), May recording 12 breakdowns (nine diesel and three electric), and June also reporting 12 cases (eight diesel and four electric). The number of breakdowns slightly decreased in July, with 10 incidents (six diesel and four electric), and August saw a similar count of 11 breakdowns (six diesel and five electric).

However, from September onwards, there was a sharp rise in failures. In September, a total of 48 buses broke down, of which 39 were electric, highlighting a substantial maintenance gap. October experienced the highest number of breakdowns, with 70 incidents, including 62 electric buses and eight diesel buses. Although the numbers slightly dipped in November, they remained significant, with 55 breakdowns (45 electric and 10 diesel). Over this eight-month period, diesel buses accounted for 64 breakdowns, whereas electric buses faced a staggering 156 incidents, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced maintenance and operational efficiency, particularly for electric vehicles. **-BMB**

Labourer arrested for alleged rape

IN CITY

A 30-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly raping a 20-year-old woman. The accused, identified as Manjur, a daily wage labourer, is accused of entering a shared washroom and sexually assaulting the victim. The survivor's father, also a construction worker, immediately filed a complaint with the Bidadi police. According to a senior police officer, the incident took place in a common washroom provided for five labour families working at a construction site. The accused, originally from Assam, had been working at the site for several months. The victim's family, including her father, worked alongside Manjur, while the victim assisted with household chores. Following the complaint, police registered an FIR and are investigating the case further. The accused is currently in custody. **-BMB**

Man nabbed for 'sexual harassment'

A 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a woman in broad daylight. The incident occurred on January 23, around 8:52 am, when the 36-year-old victim was walking alone in front of the gate of BNM Institute of Technology, Banashankari 2nd Stage. According to the victim's complaint at Banashankari police station, Islamuddin (the accused) approached her from behind and inappropriately touched her before quickly fleeing the scene. In her statement, she provided details of the suspect's vehicle, which helped the authorities trace the accused on the same day. The accused has been charged under relevant sections for sexual harassment. **-BMB**

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Safety on hold: Shanthi Layout junction is still a risky crossing

Residents of Shanthi Layout continue to face safety hazards as installation of road humps and traffic signals remains unresolved, despite multiple petitions and letters

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The residents of Shanthi Layout have been facing significant problems due to the lack of scientific road humps and traffic signals at the junction near Junjappa Swamy Temple. The demand for the installation of road humps and traffic signals was pending for quite a long time. The residents were delighted when the Traffic Police Inspector of Chikkabanavara Traffic Police Station wrote a letter to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Traffic Engineering Cell on July 20, 2024 to construct the road humps and install traffic signals.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled "Loss of signal" on July 19, 2024, narrating how the residents, especially pedestrians and school children, are struggling to cross the road during peak hours due to the lack of road humps and traffic signals. The residents expected the relevant authorities to address the issue, but only a letter has been sent to the BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell by the Traffic Police Inspector of Chikkabanavara Traffic Police Station. Given the ongoing delay in resolving the matter, it appears the letter to the BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell has not resulted in any action so far.

When Ajay Merchant, a resident, enquired with the Traffic Police Inspector, he merely wrote a letter to him on January 16, 2025, stating that he had already written a letter to the BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell. Ajay Merchant said that despite repeated petitions by concerned citizens, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) and BBMP have failed to implement adequate road safety infrastructure at the Sri Junjappa Swamy-Shanti Layout crossroads on Mallasandra Main Road in Jalahalli West.

Shanthi Layout junction lacks road humps, signals, pending for 8 years

> **"The negligence of these state government departments addressing road safety concerns has put the lives of citizens at risk**
>
> – Ajay Merchant, resident

"This negligence has led to a significant increase in the risk of road accidents to pedestrians and motorists alike, thus violating Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which guarantees the right to life, livelihood and personal liberty. The BTP and the BBMP have been repeatedly criticised over the years by the public for their inaction in addressing road safety concerns. The lack of proper road safety measures has resulted in numerous accidents highlighting the urgent need for action," said Ajay Merchant.

He said that the Supreme Court of India has issued several judgments emphasising the importance of road safety and the need for state governments to comply with legal provisions. "The Karnataka High Court has also addressed the issue of road safety in Bengaluru on numerous occasions," he said.

"The negligence of these state government departments in addressing road safety concerns has put the lives of citizens at risk, thereby violating their fundamental rights. The BTP and the BBMP must take immediate and effective measures to implement road safety infrastructure at this traffic junction forthwith," Ajay said. Expressing a similar opinion, Amrutha Gangadhar, a resident, said the absence of road humps and traffic signal lights at the junction poses a danger to pedestrians. "Installing traffic signals and constructing road humps will prevent road accidents," said Amrutha.

Demanding to construct the road humps and install traffic signals, Surya Nayak, a resident, said the pedestrians are struggling to walk at the junction due to heavy traffic. "Construction of road humps and installing traffic signals would be a great help for pedestrians," he said.

Barrage of appeals block genuine applications

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sessions for senior citizens who filed appeals.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, the State Chief Information Commissioner has blacklisted the following RTI activists. Shekhar S, who filed 1,103 second appeals, and 541 of those appeals were disposed of in Court Hall No. 2 and a penalty of Rs 5,41,000 was imposed on him. Manjunath AN filed 1,479 second appeals and 407 applications were disposed of and a penalty of Rs 4,07,000 was imposed on him. BS Ramesh (611 appeals) was penalised for Rs 1,77,00. Satish K (Rs 2,15,000), CP Thippeswamy (Rs 2,81,000), Rangaswamy (Rs 2,59,000), V Ramakrishnappa (Rs 2,02,000), Mohan BL (Rs 2,61,000), M Jagadish (Rs 2,31,000), and SS Venkatesh (Rs 1,38,000).

Over 50,000 appeals pending prompted a special backlog drive, revealing 30 applicants filed thousand of appeals

"I have followed the norms and the judgements of honourable courts while blacklisting and penalising those who were found misusing the State Information Commission or the RTI Act. I imposed a Rs 1,000 penalty on each application filed without any purpose. The government has been spending a lot of money on the State Information Commission every year. The Commission is ready to help genuine RTI applicants but not those with vested interest," the State Chief Commissioner said.

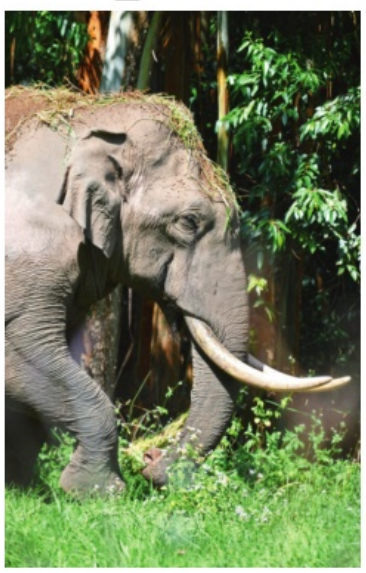
He said some of the applicants have been trying to pressurise him to withdraw the penalty imposed on them. "They began threatening me for blacklisting them but I am not ready to succumb to pressure. The revenue authorities will have to attach their immovable property if they fail to pay the penalty," he said.

New railway barricade to protect farms from elephants

Forest dept is setting up 26km of barriers to prevent elephant intrusions, alongside plans for elephant conservation zone

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

With elephants being spotted quite often in the periphery of Bengaluru, the Forest department is now going for railway barricades to prevent elephant intrusions. For this purpose, a sum of ₹40 crore has been allocated for the construction of a 26 km railway barricade. Minister for Forest, Ecology, and Environment Eshwar B Khandre said that wild elephants have been causing extensive damage to crops and endangering lives. To mitigate this, priority will be given to the construction of railway barricades. "Forest department has approved a total of 35 km of railway barricades for Ramanagara district, out of which 25 km has already been completed, while the remaining work is in progress. With 85 high-conflict zones, including 45 severe conflict areas and 40 moderate conflict zones, Ramanagar district requires a robust alert system. I have asked the officials to implement a round-the-clock, seven-day-a-week elephant alert system to notify villagers whenever elephants stray out of the forest."



Proposed elephant conservation zone

Responding to concerns over elephants raiding farmlands at night and retreating to forests by morning, the minister assured that a dedicated elephant conservation zone would be established near Muttatti or Neralehatti, similar to the Elephant Soft Release Center at Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. A feasibility study will be conducted before implementation. "There is a need for adequate water and food resources for elephants and other wildlife within forests. I have instructed officials to ensure water availability in natural ponds across all forest areas, including Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, especially during summer. Additionally, I have recommended installing solar-powered pump sets to maintain a steady water supply in required areas."

Preventing forest fires

To prevent forest fires during summer, officials have been directed to take precautionary measures, establish fire lines, and ensure the readiness of fire-fighting equipment. Minister Khandre also directed officials to take strict action against industries discharging untreated waste into rivers and lakes. Regular inspections will be conducted to ensure pollution control measures are implemented effectively. Stressing the impact of forest fires, the minister directed authorities to take all necessary preventive measures ahead of summer. Fire safety equipment must be in working condition, and fire response teams should be on high alert to tackle any outbreaks.

HEALTH TIP: According to studies, weight-bearing and strength-training exercises may help keep bones and muscles strong

Natural astringent properties of cucumber help balance the skin's oil levels, leaving your face refreshed, calm, and clear

BangaloreMirror | 7
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NUTRITION TIPS: TRUE OR FALSE?

Medical education specialist explains how to tell valid health information from pseudoscience

The Covid-19 pandemic illuminated a vast landscape of misinformation about many topics, science and health chief among them.

Since then, information overload continues unabated, and many people are rightfully confused by an onslaught of conflicting health information. Even expert advice is often contradictory.

On top of that, people sometimes deliberately distort research findings to promote a certain agenda. For example, trisodium phosphate is a common food additive in cakes and cookies that is used to improve texture and prevent spoilage, but wellness influencers exploit the fact that a similarly named substance is used in paint and cleaning products to suggest it's dangerous to your health.

Such claims can proliferate quickly, creating widespread misconceptions and undermining trust in legitimate scientific research and medical advice. Social media's rise as a news and information source further fuels the spread of pseudoscientific views.

Misinformation is rampant in the realm of health and nutrition. Findings from nutrition research is rarely clear-cut because diet is just one of many behaviors and lifestyle factors affecting health, but the simplicity of using food and supplements as a cure-all is especially seductive.

I am an assistant professor specialising in medical education and science communication. I also train scientists and future health care professionals how to communicate their science to the general public.

In my view, countering the voices of social media influencers and health activists promoting pseudoscientific health claims requires leaning into the science of disease prevention. Extensive research has produced a body of evidence-based practices and public health measures that have consistently been shown to improve the health of millions of people around the world. Evaluating popular health claims against the yardstick of this work can help distinguish which ones are based on sound science.

Navigating the terrain of tangled information

Conflicting information can be found on just about everything we eat and drink.

That's because a food or beverage is rarely just good or bad. Instead, its health effects can depend on everything from the quantity a person consumes to their genetic makeup. Hundreds of scientific studies describe coffee's health benefits and, on the flip side, its health risks. A bird's-eye view can point in one direction or another, but news articles and social media posts often make claims based on a single study.

Things can get even more confusing with dietary supplements because people who promote them often make big claims about their health benefits. Take apple cider vinegar, for example – or ACV, if you're in the know.

Apple cider vinegar has been touted as an all-natural remedy for a variety of ailments, including digestive issues, urinary health and weight management. Indeed, some studies have shown that it might help lower cholesterol, in addition to having other health benefits, but overall those studies have small sample sizes and are inconclusive.

Advocates of this substance often claim that one particular component of it – the cloudy sediment at the bottom of the bottle termed "the mother" – is especially beneficial because of the bacteria and yeast it contains. But there is no research that backs the claim that it offers any health benefits.

One good rule of thumb is that health hacks that promise quick fixes are almost always too good to be true. And even when supplements do offer some health benefits under specific circumstances, it's important to remember that they are largely exempt from Food and Drug Administration regulations. That means the ingredients on their labels might contain more or less of the ingredients promised or other ingredients not listed, which can potentially cause harm such as liver toxicity.

It's also important to keep in mind that the global dietary supplements industry is worth more than US$150 billion per year, so companies – and wellness influencers – selling supplements have a financial stake in convincing the public of their value.

How nutrition science gets twisted

There's no doubt that good nutrition is fundamental for your health. Studies consistently show that a balanced diet containing a variety of essential nutrients can help prevent chronic diseases and promote overall well-being.

For instance, minerals such as calcium and iron support bone health and oxygen circulation in the blood, respectively. Proteins are essential for muscle repair and growth, and healthy fats, like those found in avocados and nuts, are vital for brain health.

However, pseudoscientific claims often twist such basic facts to promote the idea that specific diets or supplements can prevent or treat illness. For example, vitamin C is known to play a role in supporting the immune system and can help reduce the duration and severity of colds.

But despite assertions to the contrary, consuming large quantities of vitamin C does not prevent colds. In fact, the body needs only a certain amount of vitamin C to function properly, and any excess is simply excreted.

Companies sometimes claim their supplement is "scientifically proven" to cure illness or boost brain function, with no credible research to back it up.

Some companies overstate the benefits while underplaying the hazards.

For example, wellness influencers have promoted raw milk over pasteurised milk as a more natural and nutritious choice, but consuming it is risky. Unpasteurised milk can contain harmful bacteria that leads to gastrointestinal illness and, in some cases, much more serious and potentially life-threatening diseases such as avian influenza, or bird flu.

Such dietary myths aren't harmless. Reliance on nutrition alone can lead to neglecting other critical aspects of health, such as regular medical checkups and lifesaving vaccinations.

The lure of dietary myths has led people with cancer to replace proven science-backed treatments, such as chemotherapy or radiation, with unproven and misleading nutrition programs.

How to spot less-than-solid science

Pseudoscience exploits your insecurities and emotions, taking advantage of your desire to live the healthiest life possible. While the world around you may be uncertain and out of your control, you want to believe that at the very least, you have control over your own health. This is where the wellness industry steps in.

What makes pseudoscientific claims so confusing is that they use just enough scientific jargon to sound believable. Supplements or powders that claim to "boost immunity" often list ingredients such as adaptogens and superfoods. While these words sound real and convincing, they actually don't mean anything in science. They are terms created by the wellness industry to sell products.

I've researched and written about reliable ways to distinguish science facts from false health claims. To stay alert and find credible information, I'd suggest you follow a few key steps.

First, check your emotions – strong emotional reactions, such as fear and anger, can be a red flag.

Next, check that the author has experience or expertise in the field of the topic. If they're not an expert, they might not know what they are talking about. It's always a good idea to make sure the source is reputable – ask yourself, would this source be trusted by scientists?

Finally, search for references that back up the information. If very little or nothing else exists in the science world to back up the claims, you may want to put your trust in a different source.

Following these steps will separate the facts from fake news and empower you to make evidence-based decisions.

(Aimee Pugh Bernard, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Sunscreen for kids

Mineral Vs. Chemical Sunscreen

There are two types of sunscreens: chemical and mineral sunscreens.

· Mineral sunscreens work by reflecting and dispersing UV rays through active mineral components such as titanium dioxide or zinc oxide. They are ideal for sensitive skin and provide immediate protection.

· Chemical sunscreens, on the other hand, absorb UV rays and convert them into heat, which is then released from the skin. These tend to have a lighter texture and may feel greasier but typically require 15-30 minutes to activate.

Broad-Spectrum Is Best

When selecting sunscreen for young skin, ensure it offers "broad-spectrum" protection. This shields a child's skin from both UVA and UVB rays, reducing the risk of sunburn, premature aging, and even skin cancer.

Water-Resistant

Active kids often spend time in and out of water, which can wash away regular sunscreen. Choosing a "water-resistant" sunscreen is essential. It adheres to the skin for longer, even when wet. However, keep in mind that even water-resistant sunscreen needs to be reapplied every two hours or more frequently after swimming or sweating heavily.

Non-Comedogenic

Choosing a non-comedogenic sunscreen is vital for teens prone to acne or breakouts. Non-comedogenic sunscreens are specially formulated to avoid clogging pores and often have lightweight formulas that allow young skin to breathe while providing essential sun protection.

Allergen-Free Fragrance

Sunscreens with allergen-free fragrances can benefit kids and teenagers with sensitive skin. These formulations reduce the risk of irritation and allergic reactions, ensuring the skin remains happy and well-protected.

Pro Tip

To ensure your child uses sunscreen regularly, make it part of their routine. Choose sunscreens with fun packaging or fruity scents (if suitable) to make application enjoyable.

—Femina

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I, Venkata Subrahmanya Krishna Praneeth Emani, S/o Satish Kumar Emani, residing at C38, Radiance Blossom, Mandur Village, Budigere Road, Bangalore 560049, Karnataka, hereby declare that I have changed my name to Krishna Praneeth Emani. Henceforth, I request everyone to address me as Krishna Praneeth Emani for all official and personal purposes.

I, Bhagyalakshmi Babu Reddy W/o M J Babu Reddy R/o No.474, 8th cross, SRY layout, Mylasandra, Bommanahalli Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to Bhagyalakshmi Koramangala Chikkamuni - reddy (Bhagyalakshmi K C) Affidavit Dt.29/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I MUSTUFA FIROZBHAI POWDERWALA S/o FIROZBHAI FAZLEABBAS POWDERWALA R/o No 11 5th Cross Vinayakanagar J P Nagar 5th Phase Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to MUSTUFA PAWDARWALA for all Purposes

I, ANURADHA RAJAGOPALAN MEESANALLUR, R/a.#22, Shri Krishna Krupa, 1st B Cross, SSA Road Cholanagar RT Nagar Bangalore-32. I, have Changed my name to ANURADHA RAJAGOPALAN, Vide affidavit, dated 27/01/2025 Sworn before Notary Sivakumara. M.N. Bangalore

I, Mahbub Basha Syed Mazhar Basha R/o 277 3rd Floor 5th Square Corporation Qtrs Behind I Care Scanning Centre Austin Town B'lore 560047 have changed my Name to Mazhar Basha

I, JAYASHREE GANAGI w/o Jagadish Siddappa Ganagi R/a 2043, Sobha Ruby Platinum, Nagasandra Cly Main Rd, 8th Mile, Chokasandra Ward, No39, Tumkur Road, B'lore 560073. Changed my name to JAYASHREE JAGADISH GANAGI vide Affidavit dt: 27.01.2025 Sworn before Notary V Rangaramu B'lore.

I, SUVARNA KUMARI NIJALINGAPPA w/o Siddappaji Narayanappa R/a No 18, 2nd Crs, Hosakerehalli, Bsk 3rd stage, B'lore 560085 changed my name to SUVARNA KUMARI NEELAPPA. vide Affidavit dt: 27.01.2025 sworn before notary V Rangaramu B'lore.

I, Shapoor Surappa Setty Bhadrinath Setty alias Bhadarinath Setty Shapoor Soorappa Setty S/o Surappa Setty R/o 577,Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya,Old Extn,Kolar,Karnataka–563101, have changed my name to Bhadarinath Setty Shapoor Soorappa Setty

I, MOHAMED ALI, S/o. Mohamed Dawood, Resident at Ward No.13, Behind Shaduli Jumma Masjid, Uppalli, Chikkamangaluru-577101, have changed my name to MOHAMMED ALI, vide affidavit dated: 25.10.2024 before notary DEEPA. M, Bengaluru.

I, Divakara Subbegowda R/o Albur-post, Nonavinakere-post, Tumakuru 572224 Present today camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Divakar Subbe Gowda Affidavit Dt.29/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Karthik Yadav Purushotham R/o No.009, A-block, KV pristine Apt, 13th cross, BTM 1st stage, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name Karthik Yadav Affidavit Dt.29/01/2025 notary, Harisha G, B'luru

I, LALIT RAVJIBHAI, S/o Ravjibhai, residing at No.8, Vishwakarma, 12th Cross, Annapoorneshwari nagar, Sri Gandhada Kavalu, Bengaluru-560091 have changed my name to LALIT SAPARIYA, vide affidavit dt: 29.01.2025 before notary Devaraja E, Bengaluru.

I, Rajakumara Hurdi Mogappa R/o Hadige Post, Sakaleshapura Tq, Hassan 573201 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Rajkumar Hurdi Mogappa affidavit Dt.29/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Syed Ataulla Ismail S/o Syed Ismail R/o #361 Opp Hilal Urdu School dargha Mohalla, Doorvaninagar Bangalore-560016 have changed my name to Syed Athaulla Ismail for all purposes

I, Srinivas R, S/o Ramachandra T R/o #15, 5th Cross, Nelagadaranahalli, Bangalore North, Nagasandra, Bengaluru Karnataka - 560073. Shall Be Known as Srinivas Ramachandra for all Purpose.

I, SANGEETHA MOORCHILOT w/o R Srinivasan R/a C-103. MS Palazzo, Main Road, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064. I have changed my name to SANGEETHA SRINIVASAN. vide Affidavit dated on 28/01/2025 Sworn Before Notary Kodi Nagappaya Bangalore

I Pooja Hanamantappa D/O, Hanamantappa R/o 39 1st Cross 5th Main Ganga Nagar Bengaluru - 560032 have changed my name to Pooja Kalamuddi.

I, Pavan Raj G S/o Govindaraju S R/o Sapthagiri Nivasa 56,3rd Cross Road Chitra Layout,Attur,Bangalore North,Bengaluru,Karnataka-560064, declare that in the educational documents bears the name of mine as Pavan Raj and my father's name as Govindaraj and my correct name is Pavan Raj G and my father's correct name is Govindaraju S.

I, PARESH SHIVARAM NANJAPPA SHETTY s/o Shivram Nanjappa Shetty R/a A6, A block, Golden Enclave Phase I, 1 Mn, 15th Crs, Soundarya Layout, Sidedahalli, B'lore 560073 Changed my name to PARESH SHIVRAM SHETTY. vide Affidavit dt: 27.01.2025 sworn before Notary V Rangaramu B'lore

GALLERIA

144 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಗೊಮ್ಮೆ ನಡೆಯುವ
ಮಹಾ ಕುಂಭಮೇಳ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ

15-02-2025 - 10 ದಿನಗಳ ಪ್ರವಾಸ
ಪ್ರಯಾಗ್ ರಾಜ್ - ಅಯೋಧ್ಯ - ಕಾಶಿ - ಪರ್ಲೆ-ತುಳಜಾಪುರ - ಸುರೇಂದ್ರಪುರಿ - ಯಾದಗಿರಿಗುಡ್ಡ.

20-02-2025 - 10 ದಿನಗಳ ಪ್ರವಾಸ
ವೈಷ್ಣೋದೇವಿ - ವಾಘಬಾರ್ಡರ್ - ಕುಲು ಮನಾಲಿ - ಸಿಮ್ಲಾ - ಅಮೃತ್‌ಸರ್ - ದೆಹಲಿ - ಚಂಡೀಗಢ - ಕುರುಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ.

20-02-2025 - 4 ದಿನಗಳ ಪ್ರವಾಸ
ಶಿರಡಿ-ಪಂಢರಾಪುರ -ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮ - ಬಿಜಾಪುರ - ಶನಿಸಿಂಗನಾಪುರ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುರಾಜ ಟ್ರಾವೆಲ್ಸ್, ಕೋಲಾರ
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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*/10** DAYS
Feb: 1, 2*, 2**, 6, 8, 9* 11, 16, 16*, 21, 22, 22** 23* 26

KERALA SPECIAL/COASTAL KARNATAKA 7/4* DAYS
Feb: 16, 16*, 24 Mar: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

SHIRDI NASIK/PANCH JYOTHIRLINGA* 7/6* DAYS
Feb: 8*, 8*, 10*, 15*, 16, 17, 23*, 24 Mar: 2, 9, 16, 23

ANDHRA PRADESH/HYDERABAD* 10/6* DAYS
Feb: 1, 11, 16*, 21, 23* March: 2, 9*, 12, 16*, 22, 23* Apr: 2, 12, 22

SOUTH INDIA 11 DAYS EX: HUBLI Feb: 6, 17, Mar: 1

SOUTH INDIA 7 DAYS EX: Mangalore Feb: 3, 10, 17, 24

K-RERA's big dues: Builders yet to pay ₹666 cr in penalties

Real estate regulator recovers only ₹91 crore out of ₹758.85 crore from 278 builders; homebuyers struggle as enforcement of 1,660 recovery certificates remains slow

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has managed to recover only ₹91 crore of the ₹758.85 crore penalties imposed on 278 builders for violating regulations, leaving ₹666 crore still outstanding. According to K-RERA's latest report, as of December 31, 2024, the authority has collected just 12% of the dues from builders, while 88% remains to be recovered. This slow recovery has left numerous homebuyers, who are still awaiting their rightful compensation, running between the offices of Deputy Commissioners and Tehsildars for relief.

Recovery figures paint grim picture

Sources said that K-RERA has issued Revenue Recovery Certificates (RRCs) for 1,660 cases involving a total of ₹758.85 crore. Out of these, only 233 cases have seen successful implementation, resulting in ₹91.33 crore being collected and disbursed to affected homebuyers. In previous years, recovery rates were around 10-11%, increasing slightly to 12% in 2024. However, the penalty backlog continues to grow, with dues rising from ₹400 crore in 2023 to over ₹650 crore in 2024.

Many developers ignored K-RERA's 60-day compensation deadline

"We have urged K-RERA to appoint dedicated revenue officers to expedite recovery. They are demanding stricter measures such as seizing assets –Home buyer

Builders ignoring orders

Despite K-RERA's mandate that builders must comply with orders and pay compensation within 60 days, many developers have failed to adhere. The responsibility for recovering these penalties has been delegated to district administrations, including Deputy Commissioners and Tahsildars, who are already overburdened with other duties. On the other hand, officials have been accused of delaying action, leaving homebuyers in the lurch. While K-RERA has been issuing orders to address complaints, many of these directives remain unimplemented, causing further frustration among homebuyers.

Call for stricter measures

A home buyer said, "We have urged K-RERA to appoint dedicated revenue officers to expedite recovery. They are demanding stricter measures, such as seizing the assets of defaulting builders and issuing arrest warrants if orders are not followed." The list of defaulters includes several high-profile developers For instance, a prominent developer alone owes ₹178 crore. These cases highlight that even reputed builders are failing to comply with K-RERA's orders.

Key statistics

Total RRCs issued	1,660
Penalty amount to be recovered	₹758.85 cr
RRCs enforced	233
Amount recovered	₹91.33 cr
RRCs pending enforcement	1,427
Pending recovery amount	₹666.97 cr
No of defaulting builders	278

Kumbh stampede: 4 from K'taka dead

Four individuals from Karnataka, including a mother and daughter are confirmed dead in the tragic incident of a stampede in which 30 persons lost their lives at Prayagraj while attending Maha Kumbh Mela on Wednesday.

All four deceased persons hailed from Belagavi district of Karnataka.

The deceased have been identified as Megha Deepak Hattavarth (24), her mother Jyothi Deepak Hattavarth (44), Arun Korpade (61) and Mahadev Hanmanth Bavanur (48).

The Belagavi District Commissioner Mohammad Roshan while confirming the reports said that the sudden loss of their lives has caused immense grief to their families and they are now seeking the support of the district administration to bring back the mortal remains of their loved ones for the last rites to be performed in their native places.

He said that Shruthi NS, Additional Superintendent of Police, Belagavi and Harsha Shetty, Special Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi have been appointed as nodal officers for the repatriation of mortal remains of four residents of Belagavi district from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh immediately.

The mortal remains of the deceased including three women will be airlifted from Varanasi to Belagavi, he stated.

Sources said that after the stampede, the victims were rushed to a private hospital in Prayagraj and they succumbed at the hospital. They had gone to Prayagraj to attend the Maha Kumbh Mela through a private travel agency as part of a 13-member team from Karnataka's Belagavi.

Reacting to the development, Karnataka Leader of the Opposition in Assembly, R Ashoka said that the news of the tragic stampede has been deeply saddening.

"My heartfelt condolences go out to the families who have lost their loved ones. I urge the state government to coordinate with the local administration there to facilitate the transportation of the deceased back to Karnataka and ensure proper medical treatment for the injured," he stated.

He also told Kannadigas to follow the instructions issued from time to time by the local administration, police personnel, and event organisers.

"Do not pay attention to rumours or unverified information. Stay close to your group of friends or family members while travelling. If you have young children or elderly companions with you, ensure they receive special attention and care," Ashoka appealed.

He said that the Uttar Pradesh government and local administration have put in place all necessary arrangements to allow every devotee to perform the sacred bath.

"Therefore, there is no need for haste or panic. Take part in the holy ritual calmly and return home safely," Ashoka stated. –IANS

₹15 lakh in 2 days: Traffic Police tackle traffic violations head-on

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

As part of National Road Safety Month, the Bengaluru Traffic Police has intensified its enforcement drive to curb traffic violations and promote road safety. On Tuesday, a total of 1,483 cases were registered, with fines amounting to ₹8.3 lakh, as officials cracked down on reckless driving, including the use of mobile phones while driving.

The West Division Traffic Police led the crackdown, booking cases for various violations, including wrong parking (118 cases), one-way violations (357 cases), footpath parking (23 cases), footpath riding (20 cases), triple riding (34 cases), and mobile phone usage while driving (50 cases), alongside 915 other infractions.

A senior traffic official stated, "We are witnessing an increasing number of cases involving motorists using mobile phones while driving, which poses a serious risk to road safety. As a result, we have begun cracking down on this violation as well."

Part of road safety month

This intensified enforcement comes as part of the broader efforts under Road Safety Month, observed throughout January. The Bengaluru Traffic Police has ramped up efforts to curb reckless driving and ensure compliance with traffic rules to enhance road safety across the city.

(File photo) Crackdown targeted triple riding, one-way violations, etc

On Monday, an enforcement drive resulted in 1,385 cases being registered, with fines totalling ₹6.79 lakh. The crackdown primarily targeted violations such as triple riding, one-way violations, footpath parking, and auto drivers refusing passengers or demanding excess fares.

Focus on educating motorists

Beyond enforcement, Bengaluru Traffic Police have been actively engaging with motorists to raise awareness about road discipline. Officers have been educating vehicle owners on responsible driving, the importance of ISI-marked helmets, and speed regulations to prevent accidents. Traffic police have also conducted awareness programs. These special enforcement drives will continue in the coming weeks to ensure safer roads for all.

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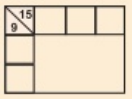
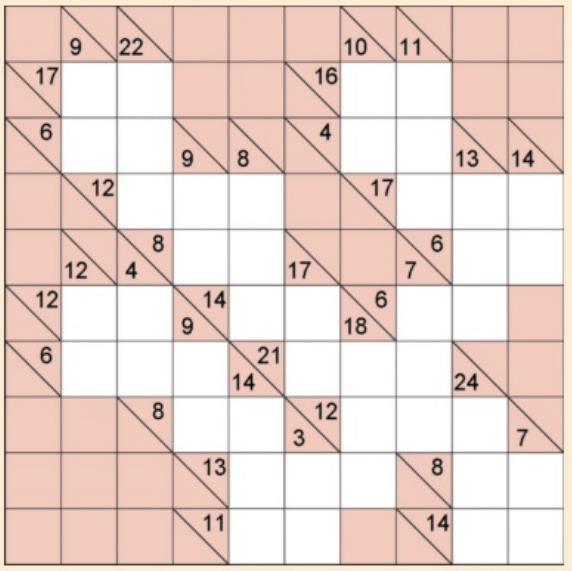
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

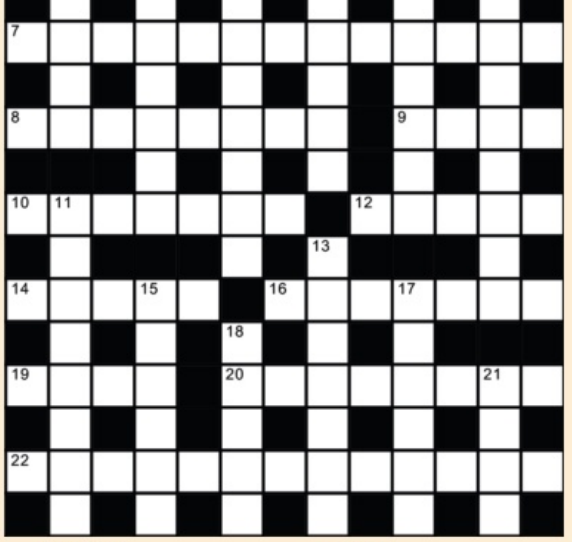


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Extremely high (informal) (13)
8 Current-not passe? (2,2,4)
9 Lost a lot of vital fluid? (4)
10 Trials or travails (7)
12 Drop a line (5)
14 Karnataka town whose name is associated with South Indian food (5)
16 Dinner course (7)
19 Therefore in Latin (4)
20 Counsel (8)
22 Increasing, intensifying or augmenting (13)

DOWN

1 To discontinue (4)
2 Coax or beguile (6)
3 Completely (7)
4 Chose or selected (5)
5 M in M.P. or M.L.A.? (6)
6 Member of the board (8)
11 Golf trophy-"Cry prude" anagram? (5,3)
13 Purifies or improves (7)
15 Punctual (6)
17 A crudely built hut or cabin (6)
18 Leered at (5)
21 Fruit of pine or fir (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS H

XDY RGGC EIPXPE PV DY UDG IYTKXYV XDY KCLYOXBIYV GN DPV VGBT KQGOR QKVXYIZPY-EYV.

Linemaro

Do you eat a lot of carrots? You have nice eyes

Mindchow

The toughest part of getting to the ladder is getting through the crowd at the bottom

Joke of the day

How do you find the gender of an ant by throwing it in water? If it sinks, it's a girl ant. If it floats, buoyant

Loop

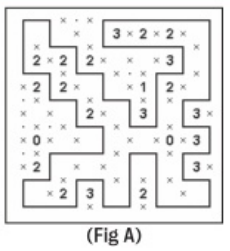
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

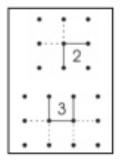
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

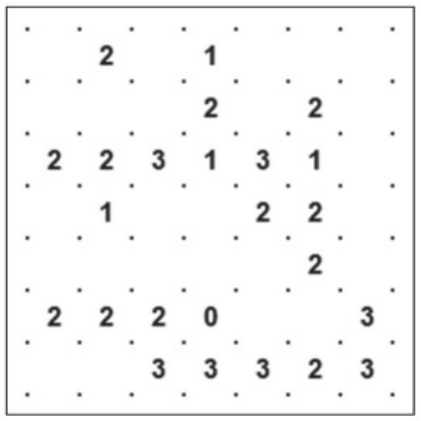
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



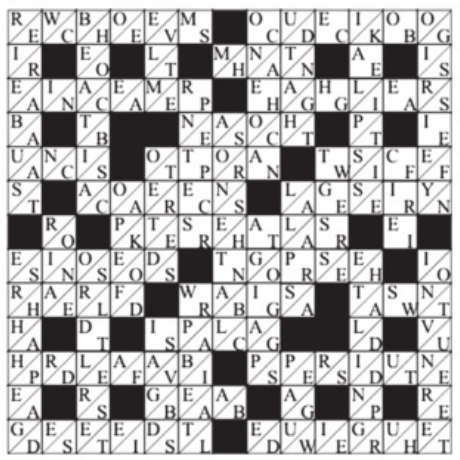
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



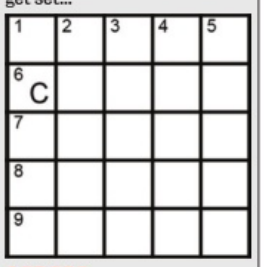
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

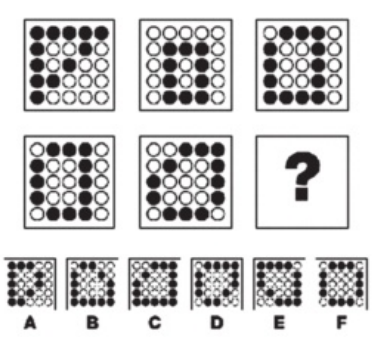
1 Off SC; 6 U Rico; 7 Laris; 8 Burse; 9 Priam

DOWN

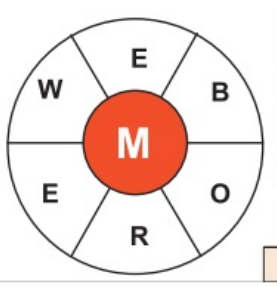
1 Scrap; 2 Recur; 3 I rob I; 4 Flu I'm; 5 Sofas

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

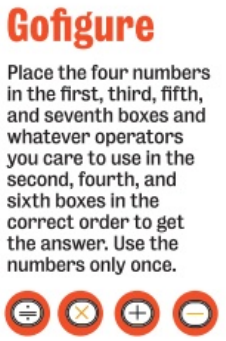
SudokuChallenge

		6		9		3		
	5						9	
2			7		3			4
6	7		3		8		5	2
			1		2			
4	3		9		5		8	6
5			6		4			9
	9						4	
		4		1		5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

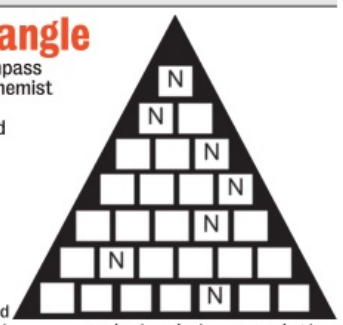
Differences: 1. Bow tie is higher. 2. Napkin holder is larger. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Shoulders are wider. 5. Woman's hair is different. 6. Cap is different.

Riddler

Can drive a team toward victory Or be whisked away summarily Can be broken by tax and toil Set apart from the mortal coil What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 North on the compass
2 Sodium for the chemist
3 Sunning result
4 Comparison word
5 Intone
6 Grab suddenly
7 Steadfast

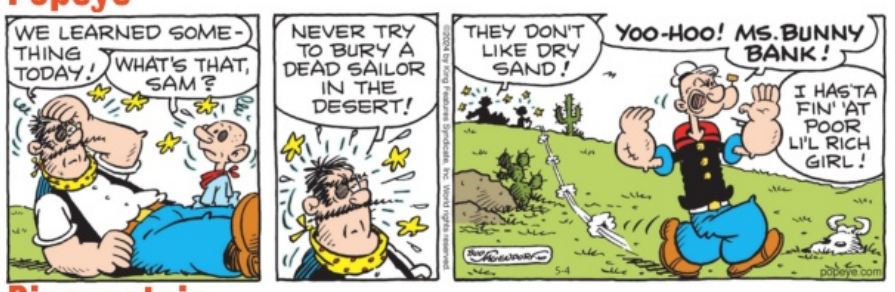


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


WE LEARNED SOMETHING TODAY!
WHAT'S THAT, SAM?
NEVER TRY TO BURY A DEAD SAILOR IN THE DESERT!
THEY DON'T LIKE DRY SAND!
YOO-HOO! MS. BUNNY BANK!
I HAS'TA FIN' 'AT POOR LI'L RICH GIRL!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WE SHOULD ASK THE EIGHTH GRADERS TO SNEAK US INTO THE MOVIE.
WE'RE GONNA LOOK LIKE A COUPLE OF SNOT-NOSED KIDS WANTING TO TAG ALONG!
THAT MIGHT HAPPEN. OR!! THEY'LL BE LIKE, "YOU GUYS HAVE CRAZY MOXIE TO ASK US THIS."
IF THIS GOES WRONG, THEY'LL TORMENT US FOR THE REST OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.
THEN WE'LL JUST CHANGE OUR IDENTITIES! COME ON!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

I DON'T THINK I CAN COME UP WITH A GHOST STORY FEATURING THE PIZZA MONSTER.
SURE YOU CAN... YOU JUST HAVE TO THINK OUTSIDE THE PIZZA BOX!
10-25
I LIKE IT!
BOO!
HISS!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the negative influence of the moon may leave you feeling unhappy and impatient. A sense of detachment from your duties may prevail, making it difficult to complete tasks. Every small task might feel overwhelming, and you could struggle to fulfill your responsibilities.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You are blessed by the moon today. Work-related stress may ease now, and earnings are likely to convert into profits, encouraging you to consider long-term investments. An overseas work order might bring financial benefits in the future. Singles may find their soulmate, and students can expect good news regarding academics.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Positive lunar energy blesses you today, enhancing your professional performance. You may successfully implement business plans with support from colleagues. Financial and intellectual investments are likely to yield profits, boosting your confidence. You must utilise your wisdom to maximise benefits.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, spiritual energy may uplift your mood and outlook. You might develop a more positive mindset and feel inclined toward spiritual practices. Visiting a religious place or exploring occult sciences could appeal to you. Avoid sharing personal views indiscriminately and engage only with understanding individuals.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Nervousness and impatience may affect you today. Seeking peace, you might explore spiritual or occult knowledge. Following your intuition is recommended before making decisions. Research and focused study can yield rewarding insights. Chanting mantras could provide relief and clarity.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The combined blessings of the moon and Jupiter today may boost your inner strength and open new business or career opportunities. These endeavours are likely to yield gains in the near future. Couples may receive good news about childbirth. Lovebirds should maintain clear communication to ensure a bright future together.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The combined blessings of the moon and Jupiter today may boost your inner strength and open new business or career opportunities. These endeavours are likely to yield gains in the near future. Couples may receive good news about childbirth. Lovebirds should maintain clear communication to ensure a bright future together.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today is a good day. Good news may come your way regarding jobs or career advancements. Job seekers are encouraged to stay focused, as hard work could lead to success in entrance exams. Singles may receive marriage proposals, while couples could hear good news related to childbirth.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you might consider relocating but are advised to postpone any decisions related to migration or business investments. Feelings of dullness may bring temporary discomfort. By evening, with your elder's advice, you can regain control and resolve messy situations effectively.

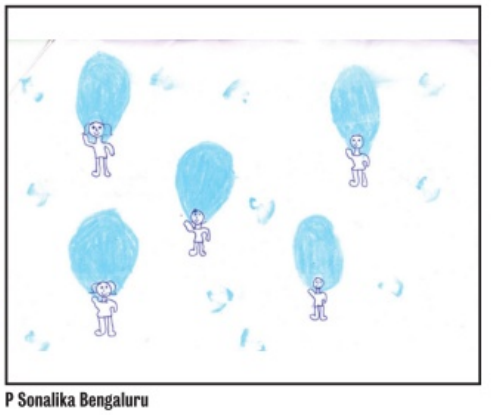
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Your patience and focus may be enhanced today. Meditation could help improve concentration, enabling you to complete projects ahead of schedule. Short work-related trips may arise, and you might meet an influential person who helps boost your business.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may invest in creative items or artefacts to renovate your home, elevating your social status. Family business plans may be implemented successfully, promising future gains. Social or family gatherings are likely to keep you busy too.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today brings vitality and good health. You'll enjoy your work but must tackle the challenge of avoiding bluntness. Arguments over trivial topics should be avoided to prevent family disputes. Job seekers may find suitable opportunities. Lovebirds are advised to maintain harmony in their discussions.

KIDZONE

SANJANNA V,Bengaluru



P Sonalika Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√(2*25) * √3 / √(6*4) =
5√2 * √3 / 2√6 =
5√6 / 2√6 =
5/2 = 2.5

BULL'S EYE
ember, EMBOWER, meow, mere, more, mower, womb, worm

FAST FIVE

S	C	O	F	F
C	U	R	I	O
A	R	I	L	S
R	E	B	U	S
P	R	I	M	A

QUOTE UNCODE
The good critic is he who relates the adventures of his soul among masterpieces.

STRIKE OUT

E	C	H	O	E	S	C	U	C	K	O	O			
R	E	L		M	A	T		E		S				
E	N	C	A	M	P		E	A	G	L	E	S		
B	T		E	A	C	H		P		I				
U	N	I		O	T	R	A		T	I	F	F		
S		C	A	R	E	S		L	E	E	R	Y		
O		P	E	S	E	T	A	S		I				
H	E	L	D		R	A	G	A		A	W	N		
S	N	O	O	D		N	O	R	S	E		I		
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U	P	T	O	D	A	T	E		B	L	E	D		
S	T	R	A	T	O	S	P	H	E	R	I	C		
		O		J		T		T		M		R		
D	E	T	E	S	T		D	W	I	G	H	T		

QUICK

S		C		T		O		M		D				
P		T		D		S		Y		E				
C		M		L		N		O						
E	R	G	O		G	U	I	D	A	N	C	E		
E		R		O		F		H						
U	D	I	P	I		D	E	S	S	E	R	T		
	Y			R						O				
O	R	D	E	A	L	S		W	R	I	T	E		
		L		L		D		E		C				
U	P	T	O	D	A	T	E		B	L	E	D		
S	T	R	A	T	O	S	P	H	E	R	I	C		
		O		J		T		T		M		R		
P		T		D		S		Y		E				

MENSA PUZZLE
F. In each diagram, the black circles join together to make polygons. Working from left to right, top row then bottom row, the number of sides in each polygon increases by 1 each time, from 3 to 8.

RIDDLER Split

8	4	6	2	9	1	3	7	5
3	5	7	4	8	6	2	9	1
2	1	9	7	5	3	8	6	4
6	7	1	3	4	8	9	5	2
9	8	5	1	6	2	4	3	7
4	3	2	9	7	5	1	8	6
5	2	8	6	3	4	7	1	9
1	9	3	5	2	7	6	4	8
7	6	4	8	1	9	2	5	3

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, Na, Tan, Than, Chant, Snatch, Staunch.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 5 + 7 − 1 = 13
Medium
8 \ 2 x 3 − 7 = 5
Hard
7 x 2 + 6 + 8 = 28

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Tribute to grandpa — Kareena Kapoor Khan to pay tribute to grandfather Raj Kapoor at IIFA 2025, calls it "surreal moment"

Kiara in town for Yash-starrer shoot

KGF' fame Yash and Kiara Advani starrer "Toxic" has already managed to create a lot of buzz among movie buffs. Going by the recent update regarding the much-anticipated drama, Yash and Kiara Advani have arrived in Bengaluru to kick-start a long and significant leg of the "Toxic" shoot.

A source close to the production house revealed, "After completing the pivotal schedule in Goa, Kiara Advani and Yash have now arrived in Bangalore to begin a long and crucial leg of shooting for Toxic. This schedule will delve into the film's intense narrative, and both Yash and Kiara are thrilled to bring this unique story to life."

The sources further claim that the Bangalore schedule of the drama will incorporate some critical scenes that explore important aspects of the storyline.

Prior to this, the makers shot a song sequence for the movie in Goa featuring Kiara Advani and Yash. Renowned choreographer Ganesh Acharya has helmed the track. "Toxic" will see the return of Yash in a dancing avatar after a very long time. Aside from Kiara Advani and Yash, "Toxic" will also see Lady Superstar Nayanthara, and Darrell D'Silva in pivotal roles, along with others.

"Toxic" is likely to be set against the backdrop of a bygone era. The film will revolve around a drug cartel in Goa that pulls the strings behind a facade of beaches and vibrant culture. **—IANS**

CONFIDENT STRIDE

Khushi speaks about changes in her since her first film

Sridevi's daughter Khushi Kapoor made her debut with 'The Archies' directed by Zoya Akhtar. While that was released on OTT, Khushi is now set for her first theatrical release. She's starring opposite Junaid Khan in a romantic comedy, 'Loveyapa'. During a conversation with ETimes, Khushi and Junaid spoke about the film and more. When asked about her take on love, Khushi said, "I'm quite a straightforward person. I like things to be either black and white. I feel like nowadays there are a lot of grey areas. I would prefer things to be just straight forward."

The actress revealed how she thinks she has gotten better than her first project to now. 'Loveyapa' is the third film she shot.

The second film she did is yet to be announced and it sees her opposite Ibrahim Ali Khan. She refused to talk about it but spoke about her growth. "I think things have gotten better. Compared to when my first film was coming out, there's a huge difference in the way I approach things. There's a bit of stage fright. You do get nervous in the way people see your work. But because this is the third film, it makes you more confident because you are not lost anymore. You know how things are going to go."

In the age of social media, Khushi admits that while initially she had this fear about whether she will be accepted, she now does things on her own terms.

"Initially, there was a lot of fear because I was new. As to how people would perceive me. One always wants to be liked, right? That's how it goes. There was a fear of rejection and it's natural to feel things like that. But the more confident you get as an actor and more experience you have, the more you learn from people around, the easier the whole process gets. You can't let other people dictate how you approach your work or things you should do." **— ETimes**

Rohman's bond with Sushmita

Actor Rohman Shawl spoke about his relationship with actress Sushmita Sen and her reaction to his work in the film 'Amaran'. When asked about her thoughts on his performance, Roman shared that Sushmita had been involved in the filming process. He stated, "Sushmita was involved throughout the filming journey, so she was aware of everything happening. She told me, "I see you finally coming into your own with this film," which was a huge compliment. It boosted my confidence."

In response to questions about rumours of a romantic relationship, Roman said, "We're friends. What's real doesn't need to be managed or explained. It's private, and that's how it should be." **— IANS**

Key to a strong relationship

Singer Katy Perry has revealed the secret on how to keep her relationship with Hollywood star Orlando Bloom strong.

"I've talked a lot about love languages and how important they are in learning your partner's love language, and even if it isn't your love language, tapping into that for them," Perry told people.com.

Over time, Perry discovered that "acts of service" and "words of affirmation" are her love languages, she said.

"Verbal support is really important, I think, for both of us," she added.

Perry announced her Lifetimes Tour, in support of her 2024 album 143, on Monday, January 27.

The "Dark Horse" singer will kick off the U.S. leg of the outing in Houston on May 7. Perry promises the tour will be a "love-filled spectacle" and a "celebration of a lot of the songs that people know."

"I'm 40. I have a family. I have a whole other world outside of this that I'm tending to as well. I know the responsibility of putting on a tour and how much people look forward to it," the "Last Friday Night" singer says.

"I'm trying to stay in the best shape, give my body breaks, look after myself so that I can show up every night and give as close to 100% that I can." **— IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Romantic comedy

Director Deepak Maduvanahalli is brimming with confidence about the success of his fourth movie Unlock Raghava scheduled for release on February 7.

"I am sure audiences feel happy when they watch this movie at theaters. It is a romantic comedy with all elements needed to entertain the audiences for two hours. This movie is technically strong," said Maduvanahalli.

Prior to this, Maduvanahalli has handled the megaphone for the movies Bhagyaraj, Kalbettada Darodekoraru, and Raju James Bond. "My third movie Raju James Bond is also scheduled for release shortly," he said.

Milind, the son of producer Manjunath, plays the lead in Unlock Raghava. "We selected Milind for the lead role because he suits that character. We have organised a two-week workshop for the actors before starting the shooting of the movie and it was a great help for the actors," the director said. He appreciated Milind for his commitment. "All the actors and technicians have worked hard and the movie has turned out well. The Censor board has given it a UA certificate," he said.

Prior to this, Milind has shared the screen with veteran actor Anant Nag in the movie Weekend. Love Mocktail 2 fame Rachel David is paired opposite Milind.

The movie also features Shobhraj, Sadhu Kokila, Avinash, and Ramesh Bhat. Unlock Raghava is bankrolled by Manjunath D and Girish Kumar.

Song released

The team of Avanirabekittu has received the much needed boost when actor Sri Murali unveiled the song – Andakalattile – and wished the cast and crew all the best. Sri Murali has also predicted that the movie will set a trend in Sandalwood.

The song – Andakalattile - is sung by Vijaya Prakash while Loki Tapasya has scored its music. The movie is directed by Ashok Samrat.

"The shooting of the movie was held in and around Bengaluru for 60 days. The movie is scheduled for release in April. It is a work of fiction that revolves around some people who face an identity crisis. The movie has a message to society, especially for youth," said Samrat.

Samrat debut as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. "It is my maiden movie. Prior to this, I made short films and worked as associate director for a few Kannada movies. I am confident of this movie's success at the box office because its song – Andakalattile – that was released on January 24 has received good response from music lovers. I am grateful to Sri Murali for not only releasing the song but also for encouraging us," the director said.

He said the movie's audio rights are bought by Jhankar Audio. Murali BT has bankrolled the movie under the Novika Cine Productions banner.